



How to grout your mosaic

This is how to dry grout your mosaic. There is no difference between standard grouting and dry grouting, apart from the last step. Traditionally you would use a wet sponge, see the attached jpg I sent you, but with dry grouting you use dry rags to clean off the excess grout. This results in a lot less mess !

Before you do it

- If you used a standard glue, such as Evostick wood adhesive, or pva, then you need to wait 24 hours for the glue to set
- Before you start grouting lift the mosaic upside down to check if any tiles fall off. If they do stick them down again, and wait until they have set before you start the grouting process.
- Think carefully what colour you use as it can change the whole look of the mosaic.

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| Ultracolor Plus | | ● 131 VANILLA |
| | ● 100 WHITE | ● 299 LIMESTONE |
| | ● 103 MOON WHITE | ● 138 ALMOND |
| | ● 111 SILVER GREY | ● 132 BEIGE 2000 |
| | ● 110 MANHATTAN 2000 | ● 133 SAND |
| | ● 112 MEDIUM GREY | ● 134 SILK |
| | ● 113 CEMENT GREY | ● 139 PINK POWDER |
| | ● 115 RIVER GREY | ● 141 CARAMEL |
| | ● 116 MUSK GREY | ● 135 GOLDEN DUST |
| | ● 174 TORNADO | ● 152 LIQUORIC |
| | ● 119 LONDON GREY | ● 142 BROWN |
| | ● 114 ANTHRACITE | ● 136 MUD |
| | ● 120 BLACK | ● 144 CHOCOLATE |
| | ● 137 CARIBBEAN | ● 149 VOLCANO SAND |
| | ● 130 JASMINE | ● 145 TERRA DI SIENA |
| | | ● 143 TERRACOTTA |
| | | ● 172 SPACE BLUE |
| | | ● 170 CROCUS BLUE |
| | | ● 162 VIOLET |
| | | ● 171 TURQUOISE |
| | ● 150 YELLOW | |

Safety first !

- You should always wear gloves when doing this process as the grout can burn your skin
- The particles in the grout can get in your lungs so ideally you should wear a mask while mixing the grout.
- You could also open a window while you are doing it
- Wear an apron to protect your clothes

You need:

- A pot to mix the grout with which can be thrown away after, such as a family yogurt pot, or plastic container
- newspaper to line the table with
- a plastic covering to line the floor with (optional)
- Grout – Mapei flexible ultracolor plus is a good choice
- two spoons, or one spoon and a stirrer
- A tiling squeegee (optional)
- A bunch of dry rags or cloths

Steps

1. Take a small container which you are happy to throw away such as a large plastic pot
2. Put approximately 3 tablespoons of water in the bottom. (You should read the instructions on the packet to find out how much water to add but you will learn to guess this through practice)
3. Start to spoon in the grout mixing as you go.
4. Make sure you keep mixing with another spoon as otherwise bubbles may form in the grout. If you see bubbles, it means it is not mixed properly. Bubbles in the grout will leave holes in the grout in the finished mosaic
5. When it gets runny then slow down, spoon in small amounts of grout until the mixture is like a stiff porridge.
6. Leave it for 3 minutes
7. When it starts to look glossy it means it is ready as the chemicals in the grout have started to react. When it is at this stage, mix it for another 2 minutes and then you are ready to go.
8. Spoon it onto the mosaic. If you have a squeegee spread the grout all over the mosaic to the edges. If you don't just spread it with your hands.
9. Make sure it has been spread everywhere and gone fully into the joints. If not squeegee it again, or rub it in with your hands.
10. Get several rags and wipe away most of the excess grout. Throw the dirty rags into a bin bag. Do not start rubbing at it. Just wipe smoothly across the top.
11. Wait about 30 minutes to let the grout harden.
12. Go in again with some dry rags and rub any excess grout which is starting to harden. Do not rub too hard, you do not want to dislodge the grout from the joints.
13. You should be able to polish it clean in this way. If however there are a few stubborn

bits which won't get clean, take a only just damp cloth and wipe it away. Do not use a wringing wet cloth... this will start to remove the grout from the mosaic.

Finishing off

1. If you did not tile the edges you can paint them
2. You can either use an acrylic paint the colour of your choice, or you can paint with the left over grout.
3. To do this, before it gets hard, put one or two tablespoons of water into the left over grout, so that it is still fairly thick and you are able to put a paintbrush in it and lift up the grout.
4. Paint the edges of the mosaic with your paintbrush and leave it to dry.
5. Don't forget to wipe off the back of the mosaic.

Note

- If you have done a mosaic with thicker tiles, you will need to mix more grout.
- If the tiles are of different thicknesses then you will find some of the grout covers the tiles of a thinner depth. Take a rag, or a damp cloth, and rub these areas until sufficient grout comes off that you are happy with.